



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE MCC, ONE OF BRAZIL'S
LARGEST INSTITUTIONS, IS
IMPRESSIVELY EXPANDING
ITS FAITH COMMUNITY

WITHOUT ASKING FOR DONATIONS DURING SERVICES

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THE CHURCH THAT DOES NOT ASK FOR MONEY DURING SERVICES

THE MCC, ONE OF BRAZIL'S LARGEST INSTITUTIONS, IS IMPRESSIVELY EXPANDING ITS FAITH COMMUNITY WITHOUT ASKING FOR DONATIONS DURING SERVICES.

A common practice in churches in Brazil is the collection of tithes and offerings during services. However, MCC has changed the concept between faith and monetization. For Gedelti Gueiros, president of the Maranatha Christian Church, the practice needs to happen through faith and not by the request of the pastors. "You want to say that you have faith, so you put your hand in your pocket. The Bible says that what is not by faith is sin. This is very clear," he says.

More than 70 verses in the Bible address the theme as a divine commandment, and therefore MCC believes that the donation needs to happen voluntarily. "Though we do not ask for money, no one has the financial means that we have today, which allows us to move the work all over the world, without having to ask anyone for money, not even the city hall," he emphasizes.

In fact, the pastors are prohibited from asking for money during the services. Only church members can contribute with tithes, and no one loses their position in the church for not giving the tithe. "For us, the tithe is a need of the offerer to be faithful to God and not to the church. After the local church has taken its expenses, all the collection goes to the

Presbytery, which is the church's central administration in Vila Velha-ES."

PHYSICAL UNIVERSE AND SPIRITUAL UNIVERSE

The practice of MCC in dividing the physical from the spiritual is one of the new ways of building God's work. For Gilson Sousa, a pastor at MCC since 1980, some motivations are responsible for this separation during the service. "Our practice is based on a sense of community; we want to count on the faithfulness of the church members; that's why we don't take collections in services, so that there is nothing material during the preaching; the focus is spiritual."

The Maranatha Christian Church was founded in 1968 in Vila Velha, Espírito Santo, and already has more than 4,000 of its own properties in Brazil, in addition to properties abroad. None have financing; all were purchased in cash. "It is the result of our faith - no criticism to the churches that go differently about tithes, for the tithe is Biblical. We do not consider ourselves a rich church in material terms, but we make a gesture presenting it to God and, in return, we have enough to expand His work," the president completes.



DONATION AND VOLUNTEERING

In addition to separating faith from money, one of the pillars of the Maranatha Christian Church is the culture of volunteering. According to Pastor Luiz Eugênio, CEO of the church, the work is based on faith, gratitude and the eternal gospel.

According to him, what makes people get involved in donating their time is also the satisfaction of helping people. "We have a waiting list to be part of the Mahanaims volunteer teams."

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BRAZIL'S LARGEST CHURCH IN VOLUNTEERS

The Maranatha Christian Church practices a culture of gratitude to maintain its temples and gathers countless volunteers for the common good.

Founded in 1968, in Vila Velha, Espírito Santo, the Maranatha Christian Church (MCC) is present in over 100 countries, spanning all continents – with over 5,000 temples in Brazil alone. One of its distinguishing factors is the sense of community the institution brings to the places it occupies.

Evidence of this is its strong commitment to volunteer work, carried out by the faithful in support of a greater cause: the eternal gospel of Christ. "If you are a member of the church and clean a room, you have not received anything, but you did it out of love for the cause. This is good for the soul," says Gedelti Gueiros, president of the Maranatha Christian Church.

This has even become one of the pillars of the MCC. And even the pastors are part of this culture. During the time they take care of the church, they do not receive any compensation – as they live an experience of gratitude. "We understand that ministry is not a profession,

it is a project of faith," emphasizes the president.

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

With over 5,000 churches spread across Brazil, in addition to 90 Maanains, the maintenance and care of the spaces are voluntary. According to Pastor Josias Junior, Communication Manager of MCC, the church members, by nature, are already volunteers. "The faithful already see themselves as debtors to God and therefore set aside a portion of their time for volunteering," he says.

Other forms of faith also rely on social work that helps local communities. This is the case with the projects "Amazon Mission" and "Sertão Mission," which provide access to basic healthcare for remote regions of the country,' as Pastor Amadeu Loureiro Lopes, who is also a doctor and a member of the Brazilian Medical Association (AMB), explains.

BRINGING HEALTH AND THE GOSPEL TO ALL

Social projects are part of the International Christian Mission Maranatha. For Pastor João Cidade, responsible for organizing the projects, missions and outreach efforts are social and evangelistic actions. "Medical care, access to health, and medications alleviate urgent situations, but what changes the soul is the gospel."

Together, the projects have served over 17,000 patients, performed 25,000 procedures, and distributed 32,000 doses of medication, with the support of over 200 healthcare professionals and more than 500 volunteers.

The volunteers in the missions and healthcare professionals involved in the project fund their own travel expenses. At the project's base, the International Christian Mission Maranatha assumes the costs of accommodation, transportation, and meals – in partnership with local municipalities.

32.980

VOLUNTEER LEADERS

AMONG PASTORS, DEACONS, AND WORKERS

The work involves attending to over 5,000 temples in Brazil and abroad, as well as providing voluntary assistance and preaching in hospitals, children's shelters, among others.

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